

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

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MOVER

Also known as the Multi-Sectoral Overseas Filipino Workers Movement, MOVER has gone a long, long way in promoting environmental protection in the CNMI.

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Stars' Scions

It's wonderful to hear that Kuh Ledesma's lovely singing scion, Isabella, is finally coming into her own as a jazz artist.

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ELI ARAGO

The good seed

By MARCONI CALINDAS
REPORTER

If his grandmother were still alive today, he would hold her fragile hands and pull her close to him and give her the tightest hug he could give, because—for Eli Arago—it was his grandmother and his aunt who helped shape him into what he is today—a successful man with a heart and a soul.

He would have particularly liked to have told his grandmother: “You will not feel bad with what I have become now because I have become like this because of you.”

Arago, now the vice president for Corporate Finance of Luen Thai Garment and, at the same time, general manager of Concorde Garment Manufacturing Corp., said that any success he may have achieved he owes to these two remarkable women.

Arago said his family, especially his grandmother and Aunt Juana, are his icons, having been his guides throughout his 35-year-strong career.

He said that what he learned from these two women helped him in all the challenges that he has faced in life.

Eli, as his numerous friends both in the Philippines and Saipan fondly call him, said he also owes his fortune to his Aunt Juana. He recalled being treated as one of his aunt's children when she supported his studies in the Philippines. Although his aunt was very strict, he knew that she only wanted the best for him, to strive harder in order for him to achieve and reap all the rewards in life.

THE GOOD Page 2



State of emergency lifted

By PAUL ALEXANDER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo lifted a week-old state of emergency on Friday, after her security advisers assured her that the threat of a coup has eased.

“I am happy to report that we have dismantled the sabotage efforts,” Arroyo said in a nationally televised address. “I strongly believe that law and order has returned.”

Arroyo declared the emergency last Friday to quash a coup plot allegedly involving disgruntled soldiers, communist rebels and civilian backers. On Thursday, the defense, justice and police chiefs said they would recommend lifting the decree because the situation was normalizing.

“It is important for our political opponents and the opportunists to stop this nuisance to our economy and embarrassment to the Philippines caused by these useless charades,” Arroyo said.

“I will never tolerate this kind of adventurism. No matter how many times, I will act with steadfastness and determination each time our enemies undermine our nation and the economy.”

Former President Fidel Ramos, whose support was critical when Arroyo survived a political crisis several months ago, said lifting the decree “would pre-empt further, more serious action on the part of the restive military and police

STATE Page 2

‘GMA still responsible for emergency declaration’

By TJ BURGONIO
INQUIRER

The lifting of the state of national emergency does not absolve the executive department and its agents who violated the basic constitutional rights of the people, Senator Rodolfo Biazon said Friday.

“There will be a day of reckoning,” Biazon said in a briefing, minutes after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo announced that she was lifting Proclamation 1017.

Biazon said that Arroyo decided to lift the proclamation following a meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Christopher Hill.

Hill had said that Washington welcomed Arroyo's “desire to lift the state of national emergency as soon as possible, and I understand from her statement that in fact the government is reviewing that position.”

Biazon said Arroyo apparently lifted the proclamation due to Washington's sentiments and not because of the people's calls for its lifting.



Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo waves to the media before making her announcement Friday, March 3, 2006 at the Malacanang palace in Manila.

PINOYNEWS

MOVER: Moving to protect the environment

By **MARCONI CALINDAS**
REPORTER

Also known as the Multi-Sectoral Overseas Filipino Workers Movement, MOVER has gone a long, long way in promoting environmental protection in the CNMI.

Current president Jun Lapeceros Jr. said that when MOVER started in 2001, an overwhelming 2,000-plus OFW signed up. The group’s mission since then has always been to partake in the CNMI’s pursuit to preserve and conserve the natural resources of the Commonwealth.

Veteran OFW Tito J. Villapando conceived the idea of forming a group five years ago to unite all the Filipino workers in the CNMI regardless of profession and status. He sought the cooperation of fellow Filipino workers to establish the group they called, “Pangkalahatang Samahan ng mga Manggagawang Pilipino sa Saipan.” When they finalized the group, they translated the name to English, which they now use permanently.

Lapeceros said MOVER is now recognized for its strong drive to prove that one doesn’t have to be born in the CNMI to acquire the desire for a clean and healthy environment.

He said over the years, the group began to dwindle in terms of membership

count. Members began forming their own groups, resulting in such aggrupa-tions as KAMPIL and CNMI Power but that didn’t stop the original group from continuing with their longstand-ing mission.

MOVER has already participated and helped in the cleanup efforts of the local government. They have helped clean up beaches and areas such as the Coral Ocean Point, the old airport, Beach Road, Kilili Beach, Sugar King Park and San Antonio Church.

MOVER has also participated in the drainage cleanup and restoration activities in the CNMI, as well as in the Tournament of Champions, Holy Week observance, Tagaman Race and Ameri-can Red Cross NMI Chapter projects.

The group has maintained its stature in the CNMI in terms of environmental contribution to the islands. Lapeceros said the group was very proud when it received the 14th Legislature’s House Resolution 14-2 in 2004 recognizing the significant involvement of the group in preserving the environment in the CNMI.

In 2003, Mobil Oil Marianas award-ed MOVER a grant worth \$5,000 in support of the group’s environmental mission. Lapeceros said Mobil has pro-vided them the grant for their projects for three straight years.

“It was very historical for MOVER

to have received the honors with the grant,” he said.

Currently, the group is using the fund in its ongoing cleanup of the road lead-ing to the Lake Susupe. They are now into the 7th Sunday with the project. He said the group still has two more Sundays before the project ends.

In 2004, the group was also recog-nized as one of the Saipan Tribune’s Persons of the Year. The Division of Environmental Quality, Tinian Munic-ipal Council and San Antonio Church also handed plaques of recognition to the group.

Lapeceros said one of the group’s greatest achievements and a huge feather to its cap was when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 office sent them a letter in 2004 congratulating the group for be-ing selected as one of the U.S. EPA awardees. The group was invited to personally receive the award in San Francisco, California but due to fund-ing problem, EPA had to fly to Saipan to hand over the award. MOVER was selected among 147 groups and indi-viduals who were nominated for the same award that time.

MOVER officers include: president Lapeceros, vice-president internal Rupert L. Magtapat, vice-president external Ric D. Talabucon, secretary Nancy C. Zamora, assistant secretary Roselia



MARCONI CALINDAS

MOVER president Jun Lapeceros.

Salazar, treasurer Athena B. Tobias, as-sistant treasurer Leonarda R. Benito, auditor Emma Salazar, business manager Trinidad G. Arellano, public information officers Marilyn Magtapat and Myma S. Tawatao, marshals Amado Matedios, Aurelio Tulali, and Jun Flores.

The MOVER president is inviting interested OFWs who want to join the group to call its membership com-mittee head and secretary Nancy C. Zamora through 287-4063 or 233-6649 or email them at mover04@yahoo.com for more information.

STATE

FROM PAGE 1

components.”

But he warned the situation in the country has not stabilized and the threat against Arroyo’s government still remains.

Opposition and civil activists have warned that political free-doms were being eroded under the state of the emergency.

Authorities have filed crimi-nal charges against at least 51 opposition members, military personnel and others for try-ing to overthrow the president.

They include five left-wing lawmakers who sought refugee at the House of Representatives and refused to be interviewed by police.

“Many subversives and some police and soldiers have been ar-ested,” Arroyo said. “Our justice system will deal with them.”

Civil libertarians, lawyers, businessmen and media groups have expressed concerns over a string of warrantless arrests, a ban on rallies and a raid on a critical newspaper.

Left-wing Rep. Teodoro Casi-no, one of six lawmakers charged

with rebellion, called the end of Arroyo’s decree a “cosmetic” move amid all the flak generated by her emergency proclamation. He and four of the other legisla-tors have been holed up in the House of Representatives build-ing to avoid arrest.

“So what? We still cannot go out of Congress, we still have a lousy president, and the military and police are still after ‘the enemies of the state,’“ he said. “She lifted it to escape the snowballing protest against the proclamation. It’s cosmetic, but in a way it’s a victory, because

she was forced to lift it.”

Four legal challenges to Arroyo’s decree had been filed with the Supreme Court, which had set oral arguments for next Tuesday. Casino said those actions are now moot and aca-demic, but vowed protests will continue against what he called continuing political repression.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Matthew Lussenhop welcomed the end of the state of emergency.

“We look forward to continu-ing to deepen our cooperation on important issues we both face like counterterrorism,

regional cooperation, defense reform, economic development and so on,” Lussenhop said.

Arroyo said she had been forced to declare the emergency because “there was a clear and present danger to the republic” as it marked the 20th anniversa-ry of the “people power” revolt that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

“One week ago, malicious destabilizers and wayward police and soldiers joined forces to ex-ploit the emotional celebrations,” Arroyo said. “They had no other goals but to sabotage our constitu-

tion and to destroy the legal gov-ernment of the Philippines.”

The marine commander was relieved of duties Sunday, sparking a standoff at marine headquarters when his backers called on citizens to defy a ban on rallies and gather at marine headquarters to protect officers “from aggression.”

Arroyo said she has ordered the defense secretary to review the events with troops to determine their sentiments and listen to their grievances and needs and push ahead with reforms in the armed forces toward modernization.

THE GOOD

FROM PAGE 1

He recalled living with his aunt and grandma, where he tended their little swine and poultry farm in the backyard of her grandmother’s house in Batangas, a province south of Manila. “I remember I would feed the pigs and the chickens when I get home from school,” he said.

His aunt would always re-mind him of realities in life and Eli said these words of wisdom have remained with him up to this time.

One that stuck was, “It’s not what you earn but it’s what you save that counts,” he said, elaborating that, even if an OFW earns, for example, \$3,000 a month, if his spending is worth \$4,000, then that man will remain poor. He added that it’s the savings that matter, especially if one works outside

his or her home country.

Another aphorism that remains: “Better to quarrel during the bor-rowing of money rather than dur-ing paying time,” he said.

Another advice he still re-members is that one should just remain quiet rather than say something bad against people.

Eli said these pieces of advice had a huge impact in his life. He added that material things should not rule someone. “It is not the most important thing in life but the honor, the self-esteem that you get from being true to yourself.”

Appreciation party

Last month, Eli threw a grand party for his Aunt Juana, who turned 90 this year. He booked his family in one of the finest hotels in Batangas and invited over 300 guests composed of friends and relatives to give honor and appreciation to the hardship his aunt went through

just to make ends meet.

“I come from a very poor but decent family,” he said.

Eli is the sixth among nine siblings. He said his parents had to entrust him to his aunt and grandma just to make ends meet when he was young.

Eli, who has remained single and free spirited, has supported 19 of his nieces and nephews in the Philippines and six of them are still studying. He said that, as an uncle, he feels that helping his family and their children rise above difficulties has always been a fulfillment for him.

Some of his nephews and nieces have already gradu-ated from college or vocational education. One of his nieces is now in New York and one in New Zealand. A nephew is in California while two of his nephews have joined him here in the CNMI.

“I’ve always wanted to help uplift the standard of living of

my family.”

‘Bagong Bayani’

Filipino organizations here in the CNMI have always had a high regard for Eli. He would always be invited to several functions to provide an inspira-tional speech or to just help out these groups.

He said he has always been very sincere in dealing with people, and that must have been a factor why these groups love to share their time with him. He added that being honest to himself and to others has also opened doors for him.

It has been Eli’s principle to help the needy around him. He said that helping the less fortunate is something he wouldn’t give up

This compassion has resulted in Eli being nominated and awarded in 2000 as one of the Top 10 Outstanding Overseas Filipino Workers, a recognition spearheaded by the Philippine

government. Eli received his award at the Malacañang Palace in Manila.

“There are over seven mil-lion OFWs in the world and being honored as one of the top 10 was truly an honor and achievement,” he said, adding that he was very excited to have received that award. “It’s God’s will and intervention that made it all happen.”

Eli said that, due to his hectic schedule, he hadn’t had the time to join any other Filipino groups in the CNMI except for the Fili-pino-American Lions Club.

Humble beginnings

Before he came to Saipan, he worked for 10 years with one of the biggest banks in the Philip-pines, the Philippine National Bank. He started as clerical guide but left the bank as man-agement accountant with a rank of assistant manager.

Eli celebrated his 20th year with Tan Holdings last January and he said he is grateful for the wonderful years the company has given him. He said being one of the pioneer employees of the still growing group of com-panies has been an honor and a fulfillment for him.

A cum laude graduate of BS Business Administration at the University of the East in Ma-nila, Eli has been an achiever all his life, a constant awardee at Tan Holdings and an inspiration to the Filipino community.

As for any advice he may have to somebody new on the island, it would be to urge them to be “natural and be yourself.” “Don’t window dress yourself. You have to immediately tell and show people around you who you are and who you are not.”

He said one must also pos-sess a good business acumen, to think “business” all the time.

Magparehistro para sa Balik Manggagawa

Ang worker-on-leave o ang Balik Manggagawa ay isang programa ng Philippine Overseas Employment Agency upang malaman ang bilang ng mga umaalis at bumabalik na mga Overseas Filipino Workers sa Pilipinas. Ito ay ayon sa Part III, Rule III, Sec.5 ng 2002 POEA Rules and

Regulation Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Landbased Overseas Workers on the Registration of Worker-on-leave.

Ang isang Balik Manggagawa, halaw sa isang lathalaing ipinama-mahagi ng Philippine Overseas Labor Office sa kanilang tanggapan sa

Nauru Building sa Susupe, ay isang Overseas Filipino Worker na bumalik ng Pilipinas para magbakasyon at muling babalik sa employer na kaniyang pinaglingkuran.

Ang bawat OFW ay inaanyayahang magrehistro sa programang ito. Para makarehistro sa nasabing programa,

ang isang OFW ay kinakailangang mag magsumite ng mga dokumento sa administrasyon o sa mga itinalagang centers o units sa bansang pinagtrabahuan para marehistro at mabigyan ng exit clearance.

Ang pasaporte, re-entry visa, work permit, o kahit na anong dokumento

na katumbas nito ay kinakailangan. Ang pagpaparehistro ay may kaukulang bayad.

Kung ang Worker-on-leave ay may valid na Overseas Workers Welfare Administration membership at Medicare coverage, Php100 lamang ang babayaran bilang POEA processing fee.

Para sa karagdagang kaalaman mangyaring tumungo lamang sa malapit na opisina ng Konsulado ng Pilipinas. *(Marconi Calindas)*

LABOR FRONT

Withholding of tax rebate

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
REPORTER

Department of Labor counsel, assistant attorney general Dorothy Hill, answers today's questions.

Q: Can an employer withhold a tax rebate from an employee?

A: I don't think so. First of all, the employer should not be in a position to "withhold" the rebate. It is my understanding that a rebate check would be made out to the employee. Under the Nonresident Workers Act, the employer could take possession of the rebate only if it was expressly stated in the employment contract presented to the Department of Labor that the employee agreed to sign his or her rebate check over to the employer. This agreement would have legal effect only if it was approved by the Department of Labor. It is unlikely that the department would approve a contract containing such an agreement.

Q: Can you explain the 45-day transfer regulations?

A: Under the Alien Rules and Regulations, there are four general categories of transfers: expiration transfers, consensual transfers, administrative hearing transfer, and transfers due to a reorganization or reallocation of garment quota numbers. As a general matter, transfer employers must fulfill most of the same application requirements as the original employer, including posting a Job Vacancy Announcement and a bond to cover medical and repatriation expenses.

Expiration transfers. At the end of a contract period, a non-resident worker may seek employment with a new employer without exiting the Commonwealth. Employers must give at least 30 days notice to an employee of its intent to not renew. If proper notice is given, the employee will then have 15 days at the end of the contract period to transfer to a new employer. In the event the employer fails to give notice at least 30 days before the end of the contract, the worker will be allowed 45 days following the end of the contract and seek a transfer employer. If the worker does not find a new employer and have the employer submit an application with Labor within the 45-day transfer period, he or she must depart the CNMI at the expense of the last employer of record.

Consensual transfers. The Labor director may grant consensual transfer during the contract period so long as the application is filed at least 10 days before the expiration of the contract. The new employer shall assume all legal responsibilities for the transferred employee.

Administrative Hearing transfers. Hearing officers have broad discretion to grant transfer relief as a remedy for various violations of the Nonresident Workers Act. Generally, administrative transfer orders allow nonresident workers 45 days to find a new employer, although the hearing officer has the discretion to make the period shorter or longer. If the worker does not find a new employer and have that employer submit an application with the Department of Labor within the 45-day transfer period, he or she must depart the Commonwealth at the expense of the last employer or record.

Transfer due to merger. The Labor director is authorized to provide transfer relief to a nonresident worker upon a showing that an employer is involved in a bona fide merger, acquisition, reorganization or incorporation. The director may also allow transfer if the Labor secretary reallocates garment quota number.

Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the Century Insurance Building on Beach Road, Garapan.

UPAA holds Leyte landslide fund drive

The University of the Philippines Alumni Association CNMI Chapter is calling on all its members and alumni of the University of the Philippines to lend a hand in providing assistance to the victims of the landslide that hit Southern Leyte.

UPAA officer Aurora Sabangan had sent invitations to the group's members to ask for the group's support for a fundraiser spearheaded by the Overseas Filipino Workers Support Group, whose chairperson is UPAA member Gabriel De Guzman.

"With our adviser, Fe Calixterio, [we] are appealing to your generosity to support their fund drive for the families affected by the Leyte landslide tragedy," she said.

Sabangan said the collection from the fund drive would be remitted to the Philippine National Disaster Coordinating council for purchase of food and emergency needs of the affected families and volunteer aid workers helping the beleaguered families in the Philippines.

Members and community members interested in helping out in this project can contact Fe Calixterio through her e-mail at feclixterio@hotmail.com or De Guzman at flash_babe@yahoo.com. Sabangan also said they could reach welfare officer Mary Dait at the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration office at the Nauru Building. *(Marconi Calindas)*

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Search for bodies officially ends

By **TERESA CEROJANO**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The search for bodies in a central Philippine village entombed by a landslide officially ended Thursday, with a commemorative ceremony planned to provide closure to the tragedy, officials said.

Provincial Gov. Rosette Lerias said the 300-hectare (750-acre) wasteland that was the village of Guinsaugon will be turned into a sanctuary where no new construction will be allowed due to safety and sanitation concerns.

"The Philippine army will end the search today but will not leave the area," Lerias said.

A total of 140 bodies have been retrieved, with the last one found Tuesday, and 972 people were still missing and feared dead, she said.

On Friday, a Mass will be held at the edge of the site, and posthumous awards

will be given to government workers who died in the line of duty and to those who survived, she added.

A helicopter will fly a priest over the area to sprinkle holy water to bless it.

Representatives of the Indonesian and U.S. governments — which still have humanitarian contingents in the province — will give statements, along with Philippine officials.

"Tomorrow we will have our commemorative ceremony, then it will be turned into a sanctuary," Lerias said. "We will have to green the area so we can control the soil."

Maj. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos said soldiers put up a cement cross as a temporary shrine for Friday's ceremony until a permanent one is built.

The soldiers are also distributing relief goods to victims, constructing evacuation centers and securing the disaster area.

U.S. Marines, who have been

helping in the search efforts, on Sunday withdrew most of their forces, which peaked at about 600. But a small contingent stayed behind for humanitarian work, Marine Capt. Burrel Parmer said earlier.

Other international groups also have left earlier, including search teams from Taiwan, Malaysia, Turkey and Spain. A contingent from Indonesia, which will provide mainly medical services to evacuees, will remain for a month.

A wall of mud, boulders and trees from the collapse of a nearby mountainside on Feb. 17 buried the village of Guinsaugon, including its elementary school, where more than 240 students and teachers were holding classes.

Leyte, a mountainous island southeast of Manila, lies on unstable ground straddling the Philippine Fault, which zigzags from the north to the south of the country.

Baguio, Cotabato raise funds for Guinsaugon

By **VINCENT CABREZA, EDWIN FERNANDEZ**
INQUIRER

Efforts to raise funds for the victims of the landslide that buried the entire village of Guinsaugon in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte have reached as far north as Baguio City and as far south as Cotabato City.

In Baguio City, volunteers are using a dog to raise funds for the landslide victims.

The dog, "Jabbar III," a German shepherd, has so far raised P2,000 in donations at the Baguio Flower Festival's trade fair that was set up on Session Road.

Benjamin "Sonny" San Pedro, its handler, offers to pose Jabbar III alongside donors for a photograph, and roughly 40 people have taken home their keepsakes, said Narciso Padilla, who initiated the project.

The first Jabbar used to stroll along downtown Session Road in the 1980s, and Baguio children almost always stopped to get a glimpse of the "wonder dog."

Padilla said donations have been slow because President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of national emergency displaced

the Southern Leyte tragedy from the front pages of most newspapers.

In Cotabato City, hundreds of students of Central Mindanao's premier university trooped to the streets to raise funds for the landslide victims.

Chanting, "let us help our brothers and sisters in Leyte," the students and faculty members of the Church-run Notre Dame University (NDU) went around schools, government and private offices, public markets and bus terminals asking people to share any amount for the landslide victims.

"We hope to raise huge amount or goods for the victims," Fr. Eduardo Tanudtanud, OMI, university president, said. "We may not be able to raise that much but it would be a big help (to) our unfortunate kababayan in Leyte."

Students in their uniforms carried boxes and flagged down public utility and private vehicles asking passengers to share any amount.

"It's heartening to see people sharing small amounts," Tanudtanud said.

Edilberto Sabilo, a jeepney driver who claimed he was from Leyte, shared part of his day's income, saying he was happy NDU initiated the fund drive.

For ordinary Filipinos, daily life is a 'state of emergency'

Part-time security guard Roy Aguabiva salvaged bricks and rotting plywood from a demolished shanty beside a railroad track while his wife listened to radio news about President Gloria Arroyo's "state of emergency."

The couple has been closely following the live coverage, but more for their amusement and to collect bits of gossip than to keep abreast of current events.

For them and the 40 percent of Filipinos who live on less than two dollars a day, Arroyo's "state of emergency" is nothing new—they have been living in one for most of their lives.

They said the declaration on Friday, which allowed Arroyo to use the military to quell an alleged coup plot, was just another page in the Philippines' catalogue of political upheavals that take the government focus away from solving the myriad problems of the poor.

"State of emergency? Sure, every day it's always been a state of emergency. Emergency to look for food to put on our tables and emergency to look for spare change to give our children for school," the portly Aguabiva, 37, told Agence France-Presse over the din of a passing train packed with factory workers.

As an idealistic teenager in 1986, Aguabiva took part in the "people power" uprising that toppled the 20-year regime of dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

He confesses to having joined anti-government protests recently, but only to get a free lunch and a "few hundred pesos" to take home to his wife Nerisa, a laundry woman.

Political protesters are often trucked in from slum areas and paid to participate in rallies.

"What will that achieve? Nothing. Besides, it's tiring standing under the sun the whole day," Aguabiva said, as he bashed the base of a toilet bowl abandoned by a neighbor who left the slum ahead of proposed redevelopment.

"I can still use this. Gloria's government will demolish our houses by this month, you know," he said.

His neighbor, Liza Lakadim, has a far bigger problem. Her husband Johnny is comatose in the hospital and their five young children have been scattered to distant relatives around Manila.

The couple was picking garbage and scrap to sell to recyclers at a dump early this year when security guards fired shots and Johnny was severely wounded.

"What do we care about protests and coup d'etats and Arroyo's emergency power? That's a game for the rich and powerful and we, the poor, will continue to toil every day regardless of the result," Lakadim said, crying.



Demonstrators gather outside the EDSA Shrine, the site of the beginning of the 1986 and 2001 People Power movements, in Manila Wednesday, March 1, 2006.

Peso hits fresh 3 1/2-year high

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippines stocks rose slightly Thursday and the peso climbed to a fresh 3 1/2-year high as tensions on the political front subsided.

The market got a last-minute boost from an announcement by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's security advisers that they are inclined to recommend the lifting of the state of emergency decree as early as Friday. Traders said investors' attention is refocusing on the improving economic fundamentals.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 2.34 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,137.61, its highest close since Feb. 2. The broader All Shares Index gained 3.57 points to 1,309.67. Gainers edged out decliners 42 to 37, with 58 issues unchanged.

Ayala Corp. rose 3.8 percent to 345 pesos on strong foreign investor interest. Universal Robina Corp. rose 1.4 percent to 18.25 pesos, SM Prime advanced 1.3 percent to 8.00 pesos and PLDT rebounded 1.7 percent to 1,810 pesos.

Ricardo Puig, analyst at Wealth Securities, said foreign funds continue to provide support for the market because of the improving economic outlook.

Erwin Balita, analyst at AB Capital Securities, said the stronger peso was also guiding share prices higher. But analysts believe that after chalking up a 3.3 percent gain in the last four days, the stock market is ripe for a correction on Friday.

The peso closed at a new 3 1/2-year high against the dollar. The U.S. currency closed at 51.220 pesos on the Philippine Dealing System, the lowest finish since ending at 51.150 on Aug. 1, 2002. It closed at 51.380 Wednesday.

The result was a gain of P0.16 from Wednesday's closing rate of 51.38 to the dollar.

PINOYSTYLE

'I'm still in shock!'

By JANET SUSAN NEPALES
INQUIRER

LOS ANGELES—"I still cannot believe it. I'm still in shock!"

These were the words of Filipino-American choreographer-dancer Cheryl Burke, 21, who talked with Inquirer Entertainment after she and celebrity partner Drew Lachey of 98 Degrees won the popular ABC dance competition "Dancing with the Stars," now on its second season.

Lachey went up to Cheryl's mom, Sherri Bautista Burke, in the audience, and said, "Thank you for everything!" The older Burke explained in a phone interview: "He meant thanks...to all Filipinos who voted for them."

The winning couple went straight to a Hollywood party held in their honor. Monday at 4 a.m. (Tuesday evening in

Manila), they were to be interviewed via satellite on the New York-based "Good Morning America." Then they fly to New York to appear on the program live on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila). They are also set to guest on the top-rated shows of Jay Leno, Oprah Winfrey and Tony Danza.

Then, Cheryl said, she will visit the Philippines. "She received offers to do some endorsements," her mom said.

Family affair

Sherri was at the finals with her husband Dr. Robert Wolf, their daughter Nicole and Cheryl's choreographer-friend Wendy Johnson. The proud Daly City-based mom said she prayed hard on Sunday. "I went to St. Brendan Church [in LA]."

She said she met Filipino churchgoers there, who said they were "supporting



Cheryl Burke and celebrity partner Drew Lachey of 98 Degrees celebrate after being named winners of the ABC dance competition "Dancing with the Stars."

our fellow Filipino [in the contest]."

Sherri, a nurse who runs three health-care related businesses, said her co-nurses told her, "Drew is lucky because he had Cheryl as choreographer. A lot of Filipinos in America voted for them."

"So," Sherri noted, "[it was] also a victory for the three million Filipinos in the US!"

Hearing they had won over NFL great Jerry Rice and Stacy Keibler, Lachey gave out a loud "Whoooooo!" and

Cheryl started jumping up and down.

Elvis song

For their finale number, the couple did a jive number to the music of Elvis Presley's "Hound Dog." Judges found their finale number "the most exciting." Fifty percent of the votes came from viewers, via phone and online polls.

From the start, Cheryl and Drew were the couple with the best chemistry among all the 10 couples competing.

Some of the celebrities earlier elimi-

nated were Fil-Am actress Tia Carrere and actor George Hamilton. The others who were present for a last dance on Sunday were ESPN sportscaster Kenny Mayne, actress Tatum O'Neal, news personality Giselle Fernandez, rap star Master P and talk show host Lisa Rinna.

"Dancing with the Stars" ran unprecedented two-fold full page color ads in major US Sunday papers. It ranked 7th in prime time ratings in a recent Nielsen Media Research.

Overseas Filipino wonders:

'Halo-halo, ukoy, lumpia'

By MICKY FENIX
INQUIRER

When asked why Filipino food has not broken into the international scene, I usually take a second or two to gather my thoughts before disputing the statement.

Shall I quote famous food writers who say our food is so varied and we eat with so much joy? Shall I talk about people like Glenda Barretto who have made Filipino food such a hit abroad? Shall I point out that, with so many Filipino workers around the world, how can our food not be known?

The famous food writers I constantly meet at work, in my little library of food books, provide me lessons on how to write, and thrill me as well with their conclusions on how good our food is—as good as, maybe even better than, other cuisine.

One of these writers is Raymond Sokolov, author of several food books and once the editor of The Wall Street Journal's Leisure and Arts. He came here to do research on "Why We Eat What We Eat" (Summit Books, 1991), a study of how

the encounter between New and Old Worlds changed food cultures.

Wonderful

Before he came, people who used to live and work here, presumably expatriates, told him there was nothing good to eat in the country. He ended up marveling at so many wonders of our cooking, especially our indigenous food, some of them disguised by Spanish names—adobo, tamales, paella.

But it was sinigang that impressed him. He wrote this paragraph, revealing his high regard for our cooking: "Filipinos do not seem to be much attracted by the extreme flavors and extreme seasonings... They have their own standards, quite wonderfully intricate. But you will miss the point if you are not willing to compare in your mind 20 theoretical ways of making fish taste sour. Into such a mental/sensual framework, the whole of world cuisine can fit and end up Filipino."

Alan Davidson, in his collection of food essays, "A Kipper with My Tea" (Macmillan, 1990), had a chapter on the Filipino food scene, which included the variety of cookery books and his amazement at the joy we exuded when we ate.

He wrote that "Filipino food is good, but its perceived merit is increased by a large factor because of this tropical-rejoicing syndrome." For this editor of "The Oxford Companion to Food," that quality was as refreshing as our "mix-mix" of cooked fruits and shaved ice, which was why he called that chapter "Hallo, Halo-Halo."

Calvin Trillin would still be my favorite food writer even if he never wrote anything about our cuisine. But he did. It's not a treatise like Solokov's book and he did not come here to taste our food like Davidson. But, living in New York City, he gets his Filipino food fix.

In "New Grub Streets" (Feeding a Yen, Random House 2003), he mentions Filipino barbe-

cue as one of many ethnic foods he can get on Roosevelt Avenue.

Trillin mentions barbecue again and "fried rice and lo mein and egg rolls and an unusual fritter that was made with vegetables and fried in oil" in "Confessions of a Stand-up Sausage Eater" (Third Helpings, Ticknor and Fields, 1983).

It's not difficult to recognize sinangag, pancit, ukoy and lumpia from his descriptions. Trillin confesses to "a certain fondness for" ukoy, one reason he doesn't mind having non-Italian food booths at an Italian feast.

What puzzles him is why there are so many Filipino food booths, 10 on every block, at food fairs, whether Italian or even Armenian. He considers this "one of those New York ethnic mysteries that outlanders were not meant to understand."

Not even Filipinos who manage those stalls could tell him the reason. For me, it's the Sidcor, Legazpi and Salcedo weekend market syndrome.

Successful

So now we come to Glenda Barretto's success in promoting our food. At the Seville Expo in 1992, it was reported that the Moroccan and the Philippine restaurants were top favorites. Last year, Barretto did it again at the Nagoya Expo.

One reason for the popularity of our food at international exhibitions could be Barretto's presentation. With coconut as the theme of the Filipino booth, she served mainly food using our most versatile ingredient.

Tinolang manok was placed in small coconuts of uniform size, the top covered with pastry. The coconuts were then put in an oven. When the crust was opened, steam would escape, a hot and

exciting prelude to the light, tasty chicken soup.

Barretto also devised a new way with lumpiang Shanghai. Her lumpia were extra long pieces, three in one order. The lumpia were placed in paper containers with three holes. People went all over the Expo holding the lumpia, she said.

She renamed it Lumpiang Binondo because she didn't want to give Shanghai free advertisement. An Australian, however, almost gave the game away when he told her it was really Lumpiang Shanghai. But she said the lumpia was different because she added buko to the mix.

And so now we come to the many Filipino workers and migrants all over the world. Think of the yayas who will introduce their alaga to adobo and sinigang, exposing young palates to a different cuisine.

In Hong Kong, on their day off, Filipino domestics invited us to a streetside lunch which included rice and alimasag complete with vinegar dip. And, in Alaska, Filipinos made sure the heads of the fish

we caught ended up as sinigang, flavored by powdered souring broth bought from the supermarket.

Of course, I understand that breaking into the international scene also means having several restaurants all over the world, like the Thais and Vietnamese. But we have been working on that, too. A group of restaurateurs and Filipino food promoters has been choosing dishes to promote abroad. Called Kulinarya, the group has pared the menu to about 40 dishes and are now working on the recipes.

The groundwork has been done. It's slow work but we are getting there.



Stars' scions start to make their mark

By **NESTOR U. TORRE**
INQUIRER

It's wonderful to hear that Kuh Ledesma's lovely singing scion, Isabella, is finally coming into her own as a jazz artist.

Isabella first generated excitement some years ago, but her potential didn't find full fruition until recently. Now that she's been launched by way of a Valentine concert with Richard Merk, she's finally on her way.

The Kuh-Isabella tandem is by no means the only interesting mother-daughter

pairing on the local musical scene these days.

The Pinky Marquez-Karel Marquez tandem is also exciting. Pinky is known to have one of the highest soprano voices in entertainment, and has also won acclaim as a comedienne, musical theater star and member of the Ang Four quartet.

Karel has proven to be similarly versatile. Not only does she sing well; she's also a cool MTV host and a teen fave.

Pilita Corrales and her daughter JackieLou Blanco are eminently successful in their own right—Pilita as Asia's Queen of Songs, and JackieLou as a singer, actress, TV personality and fitness buff and exponent.

Stage actress and "digital film queen" Irma Adlawan has a lovely and talented daughter, Ira Marasigan, member of a girl group that's performed abroad. She has played a starring role in a stage musical. We believe that it's only a matter of time before entertainment producers here discover her as a solo performer.

Zsa Zsa Padilla has achieved preeminent success as singer, actress and TV host. Her daughter, Karylle, is promising in her own right, and is already popular as a singer and actress. We hope that Zsa Zsa and Karylle will perform together in a major production this year.

Acclaimed singer Mon David has

a gifted and beautiful daughter, Nicole David, now a musical theater star. Nicole sings with her father in some of his shows, and after she finishes college, we trust she'll give her performing career her full attention.

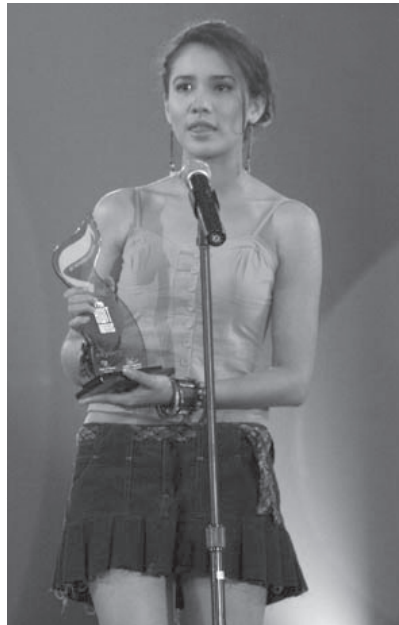
Another dad who has a musically talented daughter (Hannah) is Yoyoy Villame. And, in the field of dance, Gary V is happy that his own scions, Paolo and Gabriel, are literally hotfooting their way up the show biz ladder.

Finally, Laurice Guillen and Johnny Delgado are mighty proud of their talented daughters, Ana and Ina. Ana is an outstanding opera and musical theater performer, while Ina recently starred in an attention-calling production of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet."

'Virtuosos' "Virtuosos," the Cultural Center of the Philippines' major fundraising event for 2006, features outstanding Filipino pianists performing with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, cellist Renato Lucas and Ballet Philippines.

The pianists featured are Della Gamboa Besa, Ryan Cayabyab, Mary Anne Espina, Rudolf Golez, Anamariz G. de Guzman, Najib Ismail, Manuel Maramba, OSB, Ma. Regina Montecarlos, Peter Porticos, Raul Sunico, Nena del Rosario Villanueva and Greg Zuniega.

The program consists of Buencamino's "Mayon Fantasy for Piano and Orchestra," Bizet's "Carmen Fantasy," Rachmaninoff's "Vocalise," Donizetti-Leschetzky's Andante finale from "Lucia di Lammermoor," Piazzolla's "Le Grand Tango," Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 in C sharp minor," Wagner's Liebestod from "Tristan and Isolde," Mozart's Allegro from "Concerto in E flat Major for Two Pianos



Here's Zsa Zsa Padilla's daughter, Karylle Padilla, all grown up.

new film is "North Country," and her portrayal of an iron miner in it must more than pass muster—it's been nominated for a Best Actress Oscar.

Theron plays Josey Aimes, who returns to her hometown after a failed marriage. A single mother of two kids, she turns to the predominant source of employment in the region—the iron mines. She is prepared for the back-breaking and often dangerous work, but coping with the harassment she and other female miners encounter proves far more challenging.

Woody Harrelson, Sissy Spacek and Frances McDormand play other key roles.

'Fearless'

Jet Li's latest film, "Fearless," is his final martial arts movie. The film is about Huo Yuanjia, founder of the wushu martial arts form. Li likes his new starrer because "It expresses my philosophy in life." What will he do next? He enigmatically points out: "Martial arts movies and action films are two separate things. I feel that it's time to close this chapter in my life."

"Fearless" is directed by Ronny Yu, and fight-choreographed by Yen Wo Ping ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"; "The Matrix" series).



Kuh Ledesma

Mind your manners but be yourself

By **REGGIE ASPIRAS**
INQUIRER

Entertaining can either be a most relaxing or a most grueling experience. But it really should be more the former than the latter because of all the comforts that chefs, restaurants and caterers can provide you in this day and age.

If you're having a party, let Thai chef Thea set up his phad thai station for you and cook the famous rice noodles before your very eyes. What a treat! Remember, since it's a make-your-own phad thai station, put a lot of sauce! Contact Flor Villote, 0920-9047459 or 0922-8784579.

□ □ □

I am Anna and I'm about to meet the parents of my boyfriend for the first time. My boyfriend is from a prominent family and that makes me nervous. Please give me tips on proper table manners.

Let me see if I remember my manners...

□ Sit up straight.
□ As soon as you sit, put your napkin on your lap.

□ Hold your utensils properly—spoons and forks are held horizontally by three fingers: the middle finger by the first knuckle, the index finger, and the thumb which rests by the fork or spoon's handle. The knife held by the thumb and middle finger with the index finger gently pointed, pressing outwards over the top of the blade to guide as you cut.

□ If uncertain about how to use glasses, utensils, watch and learn from those around you. (One of my dad's guests once drank from a finger bowl!)

□ If there are a lot of forks, spoons and knives in front of you, the rule is out moving in, meaning, the outer ones are used for the first dish and so on.

□ Do not take the first bite. Your cue is when other people in your table, or the host/hostess have started.

□ Never rest your elbows on the table. In between bites, rest your hands on your lap or rest your elbows on the table's edge.

□ Taste your food before adding salt and pepper.

□ Do not overstuff your plate with food.

□ Your glass is to the right and your

bread to the left! Do not eat from the bread plate of your boyfriend's mom nor drink from the glass of his dad!

□ Wipe your mouth before you take a sip, no one likes to look at a lip-smudged glass.

□ Eat bread by breaking them into small pieces. Do not put in your mouth whole!

□ If you can't handle a drink, don't!

□ Chew with your mouth closed. No sound effects, funny noises slurping or burping!

□ Food stuck between your teeth should be discreetly taken off with the tongue. Don't do the teeth vacuum! If that doesn't work, leave the table and do it in private!

□ If you are stuck with a tough piece of meat, please do not spit it out on your napkin. Considering that you are trying to impress, close your eyes and swallow it! Hahaha! Or if you must, stand up and excuse yourself to expel the meat privately.

□ Never leave the table before the meal is done. If you must, excuse yourself.

□ Stick to safe subjects of conversation during the meal.

□ If you find a piece of bone in your mouth, remove it using the same utensil it went in with, putting the bone on the edge of the plate.

□ Do not overreach for things. Politely ask for it to be passed to you.

□ Do not, under any circumstance, make baon!

Anna, just be yourself. They will like you best that way! As long as you greet them separately by saying, "Good evening, ma'am! Good evening, sir!" and not "Good evening, ma'am, sir!" (hahaha!), then you're off to a grand start! The best of luck, my dear!

□ □ □

Summer is coming and mangoes will be in season. Can I have a recipe for making preserved green mango? I've tasted some in exhibits and I can't believe that it can be crunchy even when preserved.

Preserved green mangoes

□ Slice 1 k green mangoes, arrange in a bottle.

□ In a bowl, mix 1 c rock salt with 5 c water until salt is dissolved.

□ Pour salt solution over mangoes.

□ Refrigerate for two days.

□ Drain salt solution from mangoes.

□ Bring 1 1/2-2 c of sugar with 4 c to a boil to make syrup.

□ Cook syrup and cool.

□ Pour over mangoes.

□ Refrigerate three days before serving.

Three-eyed alien's view of RP television

By **ART VILLASANTA**
INQUIRER

If I were a three-eyed alien channel surfing Philippine TV from a starship, I'd say this country is populated mostly by teenagers who spend their waking hours either falling madly in love or vivisectioning other people with gusto.

That's the impression I get from watching Pinoy programs—"fantaseries" and fairy tales about "true" love.

The stars of these programs are usually teenagers.

Teen power on Pinoy TV is easy to understand. The teen market is huge. Teen viewership translates to money. And savvy stations are hard-nosed market exploiters. What better way is there to make gazillions on the cheap?

With both eyes on the almighty bottom line, these savvy stations churn out pointless programs featuring good-looking teens (the fairer, the better) pretending to sing, dance and act.

Bling & CGIs

It's what the teen market wants, the stations tell themselves. Let's give it the tested rich-boy-meets-poor-girl formula ... and then vice versa.

Let's bling the show with CGIs (computer-generated images) for special effects. Let's give the teen heroes magical powers. Don't forget the bad ass swords and the cool armor.

Better yet, let's make them rulers of Neverland. Michael Jackson wouldn't mind; he's broke.

And these suddenly famous teens love it. They're on nationwide TV. They've got screaming fans. They make tons more money than they did when they crewed for Jollibee.

And all they've got to do is act naturally.

But typecasting these teenagers as either dumbos or bimbos in tacky tearjerker roles is an insult to them. They could actually become role models and great entertainers, if given good and intelligent roles. Yet producers claim silly roles are what the market wants, and so that's what they should get.

Sad shame

Today's teen stars are the future of Philippine television. Acting naturally shouldn't cut it if Pinoy TV has ambitions of challenging quality programs from Japan, Taiwan and Korea.

Acting smart should be the norm. This will, however, need stories written by more mature scriptwriters and creative vision from more mature directors.

Producers know that these two vital ingredients in making Pinoy TV truly world class will cost them more money than they care to spend.

But someone's got to start along this rough road because Pinoy TV's only alternative is staying trapped in a time warp where silly plots and wooden acting harken back to movies of 1906.

OPINYON

Whatever happened to 'never again'?

“Never again!” was the cry that arose after February 1986, a cry that might have issued from the hollow mouths of the Holocaust victims themselves. Martial law was our own equivalent of the Holocaust, notwithstanding that it did not carry with it stark images of smoke coming out of the chimneys of buildings where men, women and children had been. We have our own horrifying images of mass graves and maimed bodies alongside the grinning faces of those partying in the presidential yacht. Indeed, we have our own stark images of non-images of the faces of the disappeared, the obdurate presence of the absent, the people their loved ones would never see again.

The cry “Never again!” was so resonant it spawned entire groups dedicated to a dictatorship-watch, making sure one would never rise again. “Never again!” was even a forum in the Internet, meant to be an early warning device alerting all and sundry about the signs of a brewing tyranny.

Well, 20 years later, dictatorship is back, resurrected on the very day dedicated to commemorating its death. Twenty years later, martial law is back, raised up on the very day dedicated to its being toppled down. Whatever happened to “never again”?

As it turns out, many of those who shouted that line ferociously are now serving tamely the one person who is resolved to recycle dictatorship “ever and ever again.” As it turns out, what they really meant when they said, “Never again!” was that never again would they be poor, never again

would they be without power, never again would they suffer the discomforts of struggling against injustice and oppression.

History repeats itself, as they say, the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce. How very true, except that this one is a bitter farce, it only hurts when you laugh. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is truly a caricature of Ferdinand Marcos, but a most perverse one. At least Marcos won twice in presidential elections before he became a dictator and ruled the country with an iron fist. Arroyo has not won a single presidential election—she was shoved into power by the very thing she has now decreed illegal, which is People Power, for the heroic act of hiding under the bed, or Cory Aquino’s and Jaime Cardinal Sin’s skirts; and she merely stole the presidency from Fernando Poe Jr.—and

Whatever has turned “Never again!” into “Ever and ever again”? I can think of all sorts of sophisticated or convoluted explanations for it, but a friend of mine has hit the nail on the head with a simple one. “What the hell has happened to us?” -- she expostulated to me the other day. “Have we become a people without balls?”

she has the gall to plunge this country into the darkness of martial law?

What a pathetic people we are if we will just bow our heads and accept it. Or utter that monstrous phrase with abject weariness: “Let’s move on.”

Whatever has turned “Never again!” into “Ever and ever again”?

I can think of all sorts of sophisticated or convoluted explanations for it, but a friend of mine has hit the nail on the head with a simple one. “What the hell has happened to us?”—she expostulated to me the other day. “Have we become a people without balls?”

That is the most direct, forceful and complete explanation for why, 20 years after we liberated ourselves from a dictatorship, we have fallen back into its clutches. No, more than that, it’s the most scientific one. We’ve lost our balls. Or more accurately, we’ve allowed a small person (spiritual, not literal) who never won a presidential election to cut off our balls.

That is so in the sense of “balls” meaning pride and courage. We’ve lost our pride, and we’ve lost our courage.

The first has been unraveling over the last few years when we kept on beating our chests and ruining in doleful voices that beggars cannot be choosers, let’s just choose the lesser evil, the iniquity is done, let’s just move on. It’s that plunging into the lowest pit of mediocrity, that settling for crumbs out of self-inflicted sense of desperation, that willingness to tolerate abuse and wrongdoing that has undone us. Beggars cannot be choosers? Choosers cannot be beggars! It’s the mental prison of thinking you have no choice that makes you a beggar, not the other way around.

In any case, what idiocy should possess anyone



There's The Rub

By **CONRADO DE QUIROS**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

to make him suppose Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is the “lesser evil” to anything? Of course, that was how she advertised herself in the elections (the lesser evil to Fernando Poe Jr.) and that is how she advertises herself today (the lesser evil to any alternative). The lesser evil? Hell, a dog would be a lesser evil. At least a dog has

virtues that commend it as man’s best friend. You keep thinking you have no choice but to pick the lesser evil -- Raul Roco was hands-down a patent good in the last elections, even if his EQ was constantly at war with his IQ—and you’ll keep getting the greater hell. Look where we are now.

The second, which is that we’ve lost the fire in our bellies, is patent today. A phalanx of anti-riot cops attacks a crowd of marchers who are doing anything but rioting and the marchers run away. A checkpoint full of soldiers stops people from marching to Fort Bonifacio to come in aid of a “beleaguered” group of Marines, as Col. Ariel Querubin put it, and they agree to stand rooted to the spot. What has happened to this country’s capacity to raise a fist at tyranny? What has happened to this country’s capacity to defy dictatorship?

I joked before media friends last Sunday that better the crowd at Ultra, at least they had the balls to rush forward. The crowds that gathered to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Edsa People Power I and to defend a group of Marines at Bonifacio a couple of days later had the balls only to either run away or be rendered immobile. Maybe, I said, next time we hold a rally we should announce that prizes in the form of house and lot, tricycles and cash will be given to those who stand their ground. Looking back, I don’t know if that is a joke at all.

Forget about economic recovery. Let’s just recover our balls.

Right of sanctuary

Satur Ocampo and company camping out in the conference room of the Speaker of the House of Representatives should remind us of the right of sanctuary in Spanish Philippines. In our modern-day example, the arrest of Ocampo and company by police is thwarted by congressional privilege. Today, the congressmen (and one congresswoman) are under the custody of the Speaker of the House, but if they leave the Batasan, they risk arrest and being carted off to jail. In the colonial Philippines, the place of refuge was a church or monastery. Those who sought refuge in any church could not be removed by civil authorities or the police.

Naturally, the interpretation of this right of sanctuary changed over time and provoked confrontation between Church and State as it did in 1635. The main actors in this little-known but fascinating footnote in history were Sebastian Hurtado de Corcuera, captain general of the Philippines, and Hernando Guerrero, archbishop of Manila. The story, as recounted in Volume 26 of “Blair and Robertson,” runs as follows:

“An artilleryman [named Francisco de Nava] had a slave girl whom he had bought from an Indian, saying that he wanted to marry her, as he

had taken her while she was a maiden [virgin?]. But she became angry and left the house, going to that of Juan de Aller, a kinsman of Doña Maria de Franzia, wife of Don Pedro de Corcuera, whom she asked to buy her. [De Nava refused to sell the slave, again saying he wanted to marry her, and so] the sargento-mayor besought the captain-general to negotiate with the said artilleryman. He had the latter called and asked him whether he wished to sell her. He answered that he did not keep her for sale, and the matter was left thus for several days.

“Thereupon it was ordered that he be placed in the stocks, and he was ill-treated. The man cried out that they were unjustly trying to take his slave from him; an order was given that he be taken into the house of Pedro Guerrero, and there punished as if he were mad. There he was so ill-treated that they would have driven him mad if he was not, until he saw fit to cease his

obstinacy in regard to the slave woman—although he refused to receive the money which he was ordered to take from the said house, and immediately determined on a rash plan.”

Reading this makes me wonder what kind of a slave this anonymous, unnamed, but extremely desirable girl was to have driven the artilleryman mad with love or lust. What was so special about

this slave that the governor-general himself had to intervene to force the sale?

Obviously, there is something to be read between the lines that is not encouraged in History class. Then something awful happened:

“On the eighth of August [1635], which was Sunday, at 3 o’clock in the afternoon, the governor was going to the residence of the Society [of Jesus], to see the comedy which the

[Jesuit] fathers there were presenting; and with him was riding Doña Maria de Franzia, the wife of his nephew the ‘sargento-mayor’ [sergeant-major], in a coach, having the slave woman behind. When they arrived at the corner of the Augustinian church, the artilleryman came out to meet them; and, seizing the slave woman by the arm, struck her with a dagger so that she died straightway, and he retired again into the said convent of St. Augustine.

“The news was conveyed to the governor, who had already gone into the Society’s house; and he sent an adjutant and a captain of his guard, together with the sargento-mayor, and some soldiers, with an order to surround the church and bring out the guilty man, and take him to the headquarters of the guard. This was done accordingly; but as the religious had hidden him, the soldiers were unable to find him. The convent was left surrounded by soldiers, who remained there for two days, so that if the artilleryman came out they could get him and bring him back; likewise the soldiers were ordered not to allow any religious to



Looking Back

By **AMBETH OCAMPO**
INQUIRER

enter or leave, or any food to be brought to them, under penalty of death—on which account the religious found themselves in very hard straits.”

To cut a long story short, the soldiers were withdrawn after three days and a reward was offered to anyone who could provide information leading to the arrest of the artilleryman. The reward also advanced the civil position or military rank of those who successfully ex-

ecuted the arrest order.

On Aug. 27, 1635, a man described in the narrative as a “negro” working in the San Agustin convent told the authorities which cell the artilleryman was hiding in. They barged into the convent and were able to take the artilleryman despite token resistance offered by the friars. He was brought to confession the next day and sentenced to death.

Archbishop Guerrero then made a formal demand for the prisoner to be returned and placed under his custody, but the governor-general ignored his repeated pleas on the grounds that such a blatant and heinous crime was not covered by the right of sanctuary and could not go unpunished. To spite the archbishop, gallows were put up in front of San Agustin, the artilleryman was executed and his corpse dumped on the doors of the convent where it lay for two days.

This was the beginning of an even more fascinating story regarding the right of sanctuary.

(To be concluded next Saturday)

Reading this makes me wonder what kind of a slave this anonymous, unnamed, but extremely desirable girl was to have driven the artilleryman mad with love or lust. What was so special about this slave that the governor-general himself had to intervene to force the sale?

SAMU'T SARI

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MAEDA DONATION

Disaster Relief Fund officer Nita Baldovino of the Filipino Community of Guam receives a \$1,110 check donation from Maeda Pacific Corp. president Tom J. Nielsen for the victims of the Southern Leyte mudslide.



MOVER's Project Manager-Vice Pres. External Ric Talabucon, Vice Pres. Internal Rupert Magtapat and B.O.D. Director Rannie Baltazar in action.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY GIRL

Joanne Orosco blows the candles as her clown and guests watch during her fun-filled 7th birthday party held at the Aliviera Restaurant in Garapan on Thursday night.



MOVER's first squad for Phase 3 Clean-up Restoration Project.



MOVER Committee on its Operation Penny for the Bantay Bata.



MOVER's Food Committee: Mario, Vicky Ladia, Eddie Antalan, Fe, Miles Fernandez, Nanay Terry Banola.



MOVER's squad of Tournament of Champion (T.O.C.) volunteers.



MOVER'S youngest volunteer, Kaela Millano participating in all environmental projects.



MOVER poses for a photo shoot for Bantay Bata.

Maharlika
PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

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